

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 31, 2001

LB 85

SENATOR BROMM: ...where am I going to get any prisoners, except foreign countries or entities that are not specified...or, that are not a state or the federal government? So I think what you're doing is laudable in terms of trying to provide some regulation for private prisons. But I think we should do just that. And I would be supporting the bill full force if we had just adopted the Wickersham amendment. With that prohibition in there, I cannot support the bill. And that's just the way I feel about it. And I think western...I think...I don't want to speak for western Nebraska, but there are towns out there that are just devastated in terms of looking for opportunities for employment. And maybe this isn't one that they should look at. But they deserve the right to...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...be heard and considered on that issue. And they told me they supported the original bill, the people that called me. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler on the motion to return LB 85 to Select File.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker,...Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I've listened to the discussion on both sides of this particular issue, it seems to me that on balance the better judgment is to get some standards in place, and then, if necessary, next year to go back and look at what I perceive to be the one and only issue of all of the dozens of issues that are involved in legislation of this nature. There is only one issues that's really been discussed, and that's the issue of whether we could prohibit federal prisoners, a prison for federal...a private prison for federal prisoners in the state of Nebraska. I don't think that there's any question but that we can, for example, prohibit a private prison that would take prisoners from other states. And I think getting a prohibition into place on something like that would be useful in terms of preventing us from being a dumping ground for prisoners from other states, controlling that aspect of the situation right now, and in addition to controlling that aspect, setting into